

P23687.A06

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No. : 10/646,871

Examiner: David M. GRAY

Filed : August 25, 2003

For : A LENS BARREL INCORPORATING THE LINEAR GUIDE
MECHANISM

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed, Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in a Japanese Office Action (a copy of which is submitted herewith, along with an English language translation of the same) that issued in a Japanese patent family member of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0156832:

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-023002, which was published on January 21, 2000, together with an English language translation of the same;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-308592, which was published on November 4, 1994, together with an English language translation of the same;
- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-199019, which was published on August 4, 1995, together with an English language translation of the same;

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- (4) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-313226, which was published on November 26, 1993, together with an English language translation of the same;
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-295050, which was published on November 10, 1995, together with an English language translation of the same;
- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-5849, which was published on January 10, 1997, together with an English language translation of the same;
- (7) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 61-133933, which was published on June 21, 1986, together with an English language abstract of the same and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,841,323 to YAMADA et al., which issued on June 20, 1989; and
- (8) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-114473, which was published on April 18, 2003, together with an English language translation of the same.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in a United Kingdom Search Report that issued in United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 0422629.6 on February 24, 2005:

- (9) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2004-257555, which was published on September 16, 2004. Applicant notes that this publication is a family member of U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0042092, the application of which was previously identified in an Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of this Laid-Open Publication is thus not being submitted herewith. However, if a copy of the same is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned;
- (10) United Kingdom Patent Application Publication No. GB 2394787, which was published on May 5, 2004. Applicant notes that this document is a patent family

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member of document (9) and thus a copy of this United Kingdom Publication is not being submitted herewith. However, should a copy be needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned. Applicant additionally brings to the Examiner's attention its patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042092 to NOMURA (mentioned above), which was published on March 4, 2004. Applicant notes that this U.S. Patent Application was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(11) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0141735 to NOMURA, which was published on July 22, 2004. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(12) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0062536 to NOMURA, which was published on April 1, 2004. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(13) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042776 to NOMURA, which was published on March 4, 2004. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(14) U.S. Patent No. 6,185,375 to MIKAMI, which issued on February 6, 2001; and

(15) U.S. Patent No. 5,715,482. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the United Examiner are set forth in the United Kingdom Search Report.

Applicant further calls to the Examiner's attention the following two documents which were cited in Office Actions that were mailed on June 3, 2005 with respect to U.S. Patent Application Nos. 10/815,193 and 10/815,194:

(16) U.S. Patent No. 4,768,048 to WAKABAYASHI, which issued on August 30, 1988.

Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to the embodiment shown in Fig. 13;

(17) U.S. Patent No. 5,264,939 CHANG, which issued on November 23, 1993; and

Applicants also bring the following document to the Examiner's attention:

(18) Japanese Patent Application No. 11-004371, together with an English-language translation of the same, which is a family member of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,323, which was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement, and which is a family member of above-noted U.S. Patent Application Numbers 10/815,193 and 10/815,194.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

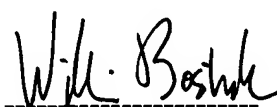
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the documents (1)-(8) and (18) are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

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Applicant notes that a Request for Continued Examination is being submitted herewith. Thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Will. Boshnick", written over a horizontal dashed line.

William S. Boshnick
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July 12, 2005
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P23687Application No.
10/646,871INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Hiroshi NOMURAFiling Date
August 25, 2003Group
2851

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4 8 4 1 3 2 3	06/20/89	YAMADA et al.			
2004 /	0 0 4 2 0 9 2	03/04/04	NOMURA			
2004 /	0 1 4 1 7 3 5	07/22/04	NOMURA et al.			
2004 /	0 0 6 2 5 3 6	04/01/04	NOMURA			
2004 /	0 0 4 2 7 7 6	03/04/04	NOMURA			
	6 1 8 5 3 7 5	02/06/01	MIKAMI			
	4 7 6 8 0 4 8	08/30/88	WAKABAYASHI			
	5 2 6 4 9 3 9	11/23/93	CHANG			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
2000 -	0 2 3 0 0 2	01/21/00	JAPAN			X
6 -	3 0 8 5 9 2	11/04/94	JAPAN			X
7 -	1 9 9 0 1 9	08/04/95	JAPAN			X
5 -	3 1 3 2 2 6	11/26/93	JAPAN			X
7 -	2 9 5 0 5 0	11/10/95	JAPAN			X
9 -	0 0 5 8 4 9	01/10/97	JAPAN			X
61 -	1 3 3 9 3 3	06/21/86	JAPAN			
2003 -	1 1 4 4 7 3	04/18/03	JAPAN			X
2004 -	2 5 7 5 5 5	09/16/04	JAPAN			
	2 3 9 4 7 8 7	05/05/04	UNITED KINGDOM			
11 -	0 0 4 3 7 1	06/01/99	JAPAN			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1	English Language Abstract of JP 61-133933.
2	English Language Abstract of JP 11-004371.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.